GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3166
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
PATENT LAWS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current patent regime is stifling innovator and allows only a few corporation to monopolise key areas of research in the software industry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to allow software patents in the country; and

(d) if so, the time frame and details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): No, Sir. Computer Software has been categorized in the country as an item of `literary creations` and are covered under the Copyright Act and not the Patent Act.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): At present, there is no such proposal.

(d): Does not arise.